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Voices for Non-Opioid Choices Applauds Reintroduction of Landmark Opioid Addiction Prevention Bill

The NOPAIN Act works to prevent opioid addiction through increased access to non-opioid pain management approaches for acute pain

WASHINGTON, DC – Voices for Non-Opioid Choices applauds Senators Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV), Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), Joe Manchin (D-WV), and Rob Portman (R-OH) for today reintroducing the Non-Opioids Prevent Addiction in the Nation (“NOPAIN”) Act. This landmark legislation, a first-of-its-kind effort to prevent opioid addiction in the United States, would expand access to and utilization of non-opioid pain management approaches for acute pain management by promoting parity in the way these alternatives are reimbursed by Medicare.

The legislation enjoyed broad, bipartisan support in the 116th Congress with 25 co-sponsors in the Senate and among some of the nation’s leading provider groups, including the [American Medical Association](#), the [American College of Surgeons](#), and [the American Society of Anesthesiologists](#).

“The opioid epidemic has been largely overshadowed by the current COVID-19 pandemic,” said Chris Fox, Executive Director of Voices for Non-Opioid Choices who led the letter to Reps. Sewell and McKinley. “Recent CDC data reports nearly [84,000 people died of a drug overdose in the 12 months ending in July 2020](#), the highest number of overdose deaths ever recorded in a 12-month period. We urgently need prevention-based policy solutions like the ones proposed by Senators Capito, Shaheen, Manchin, and Portman to truly curb the skyrocketing rates of opioid overdose deaths in the United States.”

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to exacerbate the opioid crisis, passage of the NOPAIN Act is critical in order to reduce record-breaking overdose deaths in the United States and prevent addiction from taking root in communities across the country.

“Now, more than ever, it is paramount policymakers address this public health crisis. We lose 130 Americans every day to an opioid overdose, and making matters worse, we have spent [\\$2.5 trillion on this crisis just since 2015](#) – more than the combined cost of caring for Americans with cardiovascular disease, cancer, and diabetes. We cannot afford to wait any longer,” concluded Fox.

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